

NO. 17,322

IN THE

United States Court of Appeals

FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

RICK I. RICHMAN,

Appellant,

vs.

EDWELL, ROY E. HALLBERG, as Receiver of all the real and
al property constituting the former Richman Trust, and JOHN
TE, attorney for Receiver,

Appellees.

EDWELL,

Appellant,

vs.

RICK I. RICHMAN, ROY E. HALLBERG, as Receiver of all the
ad personal property constituting the former Richman Trust, and
WHYTE, attorney for Receiver,

Appellees.

of Appellees Roy E. Hallberg, as Receiver of
l the Real and Personal Property Constituting
e Former Richman Trust, and John Whyte,
s Attorney.

WHYTE,
ney for Appellee Roy E. Hallberg,
as Receiver,

WHYTE,
opria Persona.

TRICK & WHYTE,
th Broadway

FILED

TOPICAL INDEX

d	1
ional statement	2
nt of the case.....	2
nt of the case (continued).....	4
I.	
inary and general statement.....	4
nt of the case (continued).....	9
II.	
al statements.....	9
Alleged representations—Receiver's ability, experience and availability	9
Petition to disqualify.....	11
Receiver's availability and earnings.....	12
Receiver's services	16
Accounting services and experience.....	20
Refrigeration breakdown	21
Air pollution—criminal citation.....	21
Receiver's fees	24
Objection to Receiver's report.....	28
Attorney's fees	29
ssues presented.....	34
ary of argument.....	34
nt	35

II.

The District Court did not err in ordering the Receiver to reimburse himself from the monies in his possession to the extent of \$89.20, paid out of him for copies of his declaration and that of his attorney.....

III.

The District Court did not err in refusing to disqualify the Receiver to settle the Receiver's account and to award fees to the Receiver and his attorney.....

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES CITED

CASES	PAGE
Mohun, 164 U. S. 311, 41 L. Ed. 447.....	40
ppworth, Grow-Sir, In re, 210 Fed. 24.....	35
Estate, In re, 230 Iowa 490, 298 N. W. 656.....	36
& Exploration Corporation, et al. v. Webster, 69 F. 2d	
.....	35
. H. B. Claflin Co., 231 Fed. 693.....	39
Estate of, 97 Cal. App. 2d 651.....	36
Tsang, 90 Cal. App. 2d 538.....	39
hlin, Estate of, 43 Cal. 2d 462.....	36
i & K. T. Ry. Co. v. Edson, 224 Fed. 79.....	39
v. Continental-Diamond Fibre Co., 1 F. R. D. 109.....	41
. Venza, 101 Cal. App. 2d 678.....	35
N. Moore Dry Goods Co. v. Lieurance, 38 F. 2d 186....	40

RULES

Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 54(d).....	40
f the United States District Court (So. Dist., Cal.),	
18(b)	20
f the United States District Court (So. Dist., Cal.),	
18(c)	5, 24

STATUTES

and Safety Code, Sec. 24242.....	22
States Code, Title 28, Sec. 1291.....	2

No. 14702

IN THE

United States Court of Appeals

FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

FREDERICK I. RICHMAN,

Appellant,

vs.

LYDA TIDWELL, ROY E. HALLBERG, as Receiver of all the real and
personal property constituting the former Richman Trust, and JOHN
WHYTE, attorney for Receiver,

Appellees.

LYDA TIDWELL,

Appellant,

vs.

FREDERICK I. RICHMAN, ROY E. HALLBERG, as Receiver of all the
real and personal property constituting the former Richman Trust, and
JOHN WHYTE, attorney for Receiver,

Appellees.

of Appellees Roy E. Hallberg, as Receiver of
all the Real and Personal Property Constituting
the Former Richman Trust, and John Whyte,
his Attorney.

FOREWORD.

In the interest of brevity appellant Frederick I. Richman
hereinafter sometimes be referred to as "Richman,"
Lyda Tidwell will sometimes be referred to as
"Tidwell," appellee Roy E. Hallberg, as Receiver of all the

JURISDICTIONAL STATEMENT.

This appeal is taken from a final order of the District Court settling the Receiver's account, allowing for the Receiver and his attorney, and providing for the distribution of funds in the hands of the Receiver. [190-196.] Appellants invoke the jurisdiction of this Court under 28 U. S. C., Section 1291.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE.

That portion of appellant Richman's statement of the case which sets forth alleged facts relating to his specifications of error with respect to the Receiver and his attorney¹ (as distinguished from alleged facts relating under the heading, "Statement *Re* Fees—Conduct of Receiver in Gross Abuse of Judicial Discretion," which is set forth in the material at pages 16-46 of Richman's opening brief.) Such portion of Richman's statement of the case is misleading, biased, incomplete, inaccurate and untrue for the following reasons:

(a) It omits numerous facts material to a determination of the issues herein touching the Receiver and his counsel.

(b) It contains many statements which are not supported by any reference to the record. By way of illustration, and without attempting to specify every instance, beginning at the top of page 34 of Richman's opening

¹Specifications of error, Nos. 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. (Appellant's Op. Br. pp. 47-48.)

specifications of error with respect to Tidwell²) and

—3—

three separate declarations of asserted fact are in as many sentences. Not one of them is supported by reference to the record. Similarly, in the paragraph immediately following the quoted material on page 42 of brief several items and amounts are mentioned as part of the Receiver's accounting. None of these is accompanied by a citation to the record, except the first item which is followed by a reference to record [R. 110, Ex. 2] that does not support the

It is replete with instances where the allusion to record does not uphold the assertion made. Selected below are the following examples. At the end of the last paragraph on page 44 there is a reference to "R. 380" as upholding a certain statement. It does nothing of the sort. Again, on page 24 it is asserted that the Receiver "intended to delegate his receivership duties to Miss Cosgrove, the maiden name of his wife," and by a reference to "R. 380." The record fails to sustain the assertion. The same is true of the statement on page 22 that "Richman could not contact the Receiver after December 18, 1953. [R. 537-538.]"

Accordingly, the Receiver and his attorney deem it necessary to set forth their own statement of the case. In order to aid this Court in comparing the facts recited in the Receiver's statement with the facts as they are recited in the Plaintiff's opening brief, we shall first make a preliminary and general statement of the case, followed by a series of specific statements whose heading and subject matter

I.

Preliminary and General Statement.

On November 30, 1953, the District Court handed a memorandum decision terminating the Richman Trust of which appellants Richman and Tidwell (brother and sister) were each a trustor, trustee, and beneficiary on the ground that Richman had been guilty of undue influence in procuring his sister's consent to the Trust [R. 13-20.] On the same day the court³ made an order appointing Roy E. Hallberg, as Receiver of all the real and personal property constituting the former Richman Trust, the bulk of that property consisting of five apartment houses located in the City of Los Angeles, California, and named as follows: Canterbury, Fountain M. La Loma, Oliver Cromwell and Western Arms. [R. 21-22, 25.] The approximate value of the trust property was \$1,200,000. [R. 724.]

The order appointing the Receiver fixed his bond at \$75,000 [R. 23-24], and on December 2, 1953, the Receiver filed his bond after the same had been approved by the court. [R. 25-26.] Likewise, on December 1, 1953, the District Court made an order authorizing and directing the Receiver to employ Messrs. Fitzpatrick & Whyte and John Whyte, as his attorneys.⁴ [R. 27-28.]

³Whenever the word "court" is used herein without descriptive language, the reference is to the District Court Trial Court.

⁴Nearly all of the legal services performed by Messrs. Fitzpatrick & Whyte in connection with receivership and later

February 26, 1954, after Tidwell and Richman, parties to the main litigation, had agreed upon a settlement of their differences, the trial court made an order directing that the Receiver "be relieved of his active management, control and possession of the assets of the Richman Trust, as of five o'clock p. m., Sunday, February 28, 1954, and that the said Receiver . . . deliver control and possession to Lyda Tidwell, plaintiff, of all the assets of the said Richman Trust, except money in bank and under the control of the said Receiver" [R. 55-57.] Thereafter, on March 18, 1954, the Receiver filed his first and final report and petition for allowance of "reasonable" fees for his services as Receiver from about December 1, 1953, to and including February 28, 1954. [R. 75-121.] Such petition did not show in what amount fees were being asked, as required by Rule 18(c), Local Rules Southern District of New York, for the reason that the Trial Judge had given the Receiver permission "to leave it to the court to determine a reasonable amount that the court would not insist upon compliance with the rule that an amount shall be prayed for." [R. 254, 624-625, 938.] On the same day the Receiver's counsel filed his original petition for allowance of fees for legal services performed by him on the Receiver's behalf from about December 1, 1953, to and including February 17, 1954. [R. 58-74.] The attorney's petition prayed for the sum of \$3,000.00 as compensation for ordinary legal services plus such further sum as the court might think reasonable for extraordinary legal services.⁵

On April 6, 1954, Richman filed lengthy objections and an answer to the report and petitions of the Receiver and his attorney for fees. [R. 125-144.] At a hearing held on April 12, 1954, the court separated the issues of how the money in the hands of the Receiver should be divided between Tidwell and Richman from the issue respecting settlement of the Receiver's report and allowance of fees to him and his attorney, and fixed April 11, 1954, as the date for commencement of the hearing on the latter issue. [R. 235, 237, 243.] At the hearing Richman's counsel announced his intention to introduce the depositions of the Receiver and his attorney [R. 871, 922.]

The hearing on the settlement of the Receiver's report and the allowance of fees to him and his counsel actually began on May 12, 1954 [R. 246], at which time the Receiver's attorney filed a supplemental petition for allowance of fees for legal services rendered from March 1954, to and including May 10, 1954. [R. 164-165.] During the course of the proceedings the depositions of Hallberg and Whyte were introduced in evidence. [R. 250, 544.] The hearing continued for approximately two and one-half days, exclusive of final argument. [R. 246, 265, 340-341, 416-417, 439, 540, 613, 635, 700-755.] All of the time spent in the hearing was devoted to defending the Receiver against Richman's attack on his report and petition for fees and to laying a foundation for determining the amount of a reasonable fee to the Receiver, except that a part of one afternoon session [R. 540-571] and ^{a part of} one morning session [R. 614-620]

—7—

ing the course of the hearing Richman's attorney
ed that his client was not attempting to surcharge
ceiver personally but rather, Mrs. Tidwell, the
ful litigant in the main action, and this was so
stood by the Trial Court. The statements made in
gard were as follows:

"The Court: Well, I think the objections as filed
d undertake to apply the surcharge against the
ceiver, but the statement counsel made in court as
what his objective is, or one of his objectives in
e matter here is to have it [392] applied against
rs. Tidwell, who is not the receiver. Is that right?

Mr. Enright: Yes, your Honor.

The Court: So the Receiver came here upon plead-
gs which undertook to have him surcharged, but
e theory of trial, which was announced rather
rly in the trial, is that the attempt to surcharge
not against the Receiver, Mr. Whyte's client, but
against the prevailing litigant in Tidwell vs. Rich-
an. Does that state it?

Mr. Whyte: Is that your position, Mr. Enright,
at you are not now trying to surcharge the Re-
iver?

Mr. Enright: We surcharged that Receiver. We
ked that it be a charge upon the funds in his hands.
hat is the way we pleaded it. That is the way we
ated it in the inception. I am sure the Receiver
nderstood it that way.

The Court: Well, I don't know whether he clearly
nderstood it that way at the beginning, Mr. En-
ght, because I didn't. And while I have great

But it became apparent in this trial settling the Receiver's fees that the attempt is to surcharge the [393] or, as I stated originally, to surcharge Tidwell instead of taking it out of the pocket Receiver.

Now, has it all been stated clearly?

Mr. Enright: I think so, your Honor. I like to analyze the record." [R. 617-619.]

"Mr. Whyte: I would like to inquire of the and [459] inquire of Mr. Enright, whether there is any intention now to shift the position which was expressed this morning, when Mr. Fussell was to the effect you were not seeking to charge the charge to the Receiver personally for any of the claimed items.

Now, is that correct, Mr. Enright?

The Court: I understand Mr. Enright is seeking to charge the fund which is in the Receiver's session.

Mr. Whyte: Very well.

The Court: Is that right, Mr. Enright?

Mr. Enright: Yes." [R. 685-686.]

Consequently, there is no issue before this Court with reference to any attempt to surcharge the Receiver. Specifications of Error, Nos. 3 and 8, appearing at 47-48 of Richman's opening brief, should be disregarded insofar as they allege error below in failing to surcharge the Receiver.

On November 19, 1954, the District Court signed and filed a final order settling the Receiver's account, allocating the fees, and distributing the funds in the hands of the

to be the reasonable value of the Receiver's services
the sum of \$1,800 to be the reasonable value of his
ey's services, and it fixed their respective fees at
amounts. [R. 194.] The court also directed that
Receiver reimburse himself from the monies in his
sion to the extent of \$89.20 paid by him for copies
depositions used at the hearing on his report and
n for fees and his counsel's petition for fees. [R.

pellant Richman has appealed from the whole of
rder of November 19, 1954. [R. 196-197.]

STATEMENT OF THE CASE (Continued).

II.

Topical Statements.

**Alleged Representations—Receiver's Ability, Experi-
ence and Availability.**

pages 16-19 of his opening brief Richman strives to
the impression (which, as we shall see, is wholly
ranted) that at the hearing on November 30, 1953,
ich the District Court announced its intention to
t Hallberg as Receiver, Hallberg made certain rep-
ations, some or all of which were untrue. To this
quotes several statements made by the court on that
on (Richman's Op. Br. pp. 16-19) but mentions no
ents made by Hallberg, except that the Receiver
ed in" with the remark "That is correct" at the
of one of the court's observations (Richman's Op.
17), affirmed that he had a place of business in

tations ("The Receiver didn't come to the court and any representation") [R. 235], to the extent that "chiming in," such affirmation, and such response possibly be construed as representations by the Receiver, they were truthful in every particular.

Insofar as they contained any declarations of the court's observations to which Hallberg replied, "is correct," were as follows (Richman's Op. Br. p.

"The Court: . . .

". . . I have explained to them that you had experience in this type of work in Chicago, your main vocation for some years was in the management of real properties, sometimes in connection with court receiverships, and that your experience it locally has been in the management of your real properties, which were of income nature of similar properties owned by either you or wife's relatives.

Mr. Hallberg: That is correct."

During the years 1930-1931, in Chicago, Illinois, Hallberg's main vocation was the management of real properties in connection with a court receivership. [R. 378, 381-383, 465-466, 884-885.] He also had local experience in the management of real properties of income nature owned by himself and his wife, consisting among others, of a 16 unit apartment building in Pasadena and a four family unit in Pasadena. [R. 369-370, 881-882, 889-891.]

Furthermore, his affirmation that he had a plumbing business in Pasadena was perfectly truthful inasmuch as the four family unit owned by him and his wife in

is significant to note that at this same hearing on
umber 30, 1953, Richman's counsel expressed his com-
fidence in the Receiver's integrity and ability when
ted, "I am satisfied that your Honor would not have
ed anyone except a man of not only integrity, but of
." (Richman's Op. Br. p. 18.) It is of further
cance to note that before appointing Hallberg as the
ver the Trial Court invited counsel for both Richman
idwell to ask the Receiver any questions they wished,
o questions were asked. [R. 210-216, 259.]

B. Petition to Disqualify.

April 30, 1954, prior to the hearing on the Re-
s report and petition for fees and the petition of
torney for fees, appellant Richman filed a petition
qualify Honorable Ernest A. Tolin, the District
, upon the ground that the Judge was a material
ss to the determination of what fees should be paid
ceiver in that the Receiver had made certain alleg-
alse representations to the court before his appoint-
when the court was interviewing him with respect
s availability, experience and qualifications. [R.
54.] The petition to disqualify further alleged that
ld be necessary for Richman to call the Trial Judge
witness to these alleged misrepresentations. [R.

we have just seen, if the Receiver can be said to
made any representations to the court before his
tment, his statements were entirely truthful. More-
everything said at the hearing at which it is claimed

Under these circumstances it would have been unnecessary for Richman to have called the Trial [redacted] as a witness to any alleged representations made by [redacted] Receiver at the hearing.

C. Receiver's Availability and Earnings.

With respect to Hallberg's availability to act as Receiver, the record reveals the following:

At the time he took his oath of office as Receiver on December 2, 1953, Hallberg did not know that he would be employed by the County of Orange. [R. 363, 379, 355-357.] His work for the County did not begin until December 7, 1953. [R. 326.] He had no definite hours of employment but was merely required to work in a 40 hour week of eight hours a day, Monday through Friday. [R. 327-328, 335, 343, 346-347.] About half of his work consisted in the preparation of data in regard to assessing and appraising; such work could be done outside the office or at his home in the evening. [R. 356-360.]

At the time it appointed Hallberg as Receiver of the District Court envisaged his job as only "part-time employment." In this connection the court said:

"The Court: . . .

.

Knowing that Mr. Richman had carried on other ventures [19] while he managed these properties I thought that while it would be part time, it would be a substantial part-time employment, and having confidence in the man's integrity and ability, I appointed him if he would serve and he said he would."

concerning the time which he personally spent on the receivership, Hallberg testified as follows:

"Q. (By Mr. Enright): Actually, the physical method of operation was that commencing December 7th and all through February 28th, and you would make trips up to Los Angeles on the weekends or come up Friday night after completing your work for the County of Orange, isn't that right? A. I came up during the week. I came up Friday, it is true. I was there Saturday. I was even there on Sunday.

Q. Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday? A. During the week I was there on various occasions." [R. 434-435.]

"Q. Well, generally, didn't you do your checking in the operation of these apartments on the week end, [89] Mr. Hallberg? A. I did some of that.

Q. I mean, that was the rule, wasn't it? A. Not necessarily.

Q. You'd come in on week ends, Saturdays and Sundays? A. Not necessarily. I came in during the week some evenings, as well as days. * * *

[R. 905.]

When one of the apartment house managers was asked how many occasions she had seen Hallberg during the month's period of the receivership, she replied:

"A. I would say between seven, not less than twelve times; perhaps seven, eight or nine times." [R. 503.]

Another apartment house manager, who testified that

in which event she would not have seen the Record [R. 477-479.]

During the entire course of the receivership Hallberg had the assistance of a full-time bookkeeper [R. 270-271]. First, Mr. Harrison, who had been Richman's secretary and bookkeeper [R. 410-411], and then Miss Findeisen [R. 270.] He also was materially assisted throughout by his wife, who represented him in many of his contacts with the apartment house managers and with various service and trades people. [R. 263-264.] In addition, Hallberg supervised the decorating of apartments, made periodic trips to collect the rents and deposited the money in the bank, purchased supplies, and helped with the bookkeeping. [R. 263-265, 267-268.] She received no compensation for any of her services to the receivership. [R. 269.]

At the same time that he was managing the affairs of the Richman Trust from 1945 to 1953, Richman was carrying on a private law practice in the City of Los Angeles, which included such matters as the organization of corporations, the preparation of tax returns, and the drafting of contracts. [R. 528-529, 713-714.] During his last year as manager of the Richman Trust, he devoted considerable time to preparing for and attending the trial of Mrs. Tidwell's action against him to terminate the Trust. [R. 714-715.] From January, 1950, until the Trust was terminated, he also acted as President of the Consolidated Mortgage Company. [R. 731-732.]

With respect to Hallberg's earnings and expenses prior to the receivership (exclusive of his accounting

majoring in business administration at Northwestern University where he received the degree of Bachelor of Science and Commerce in 1927. [R. 290.] From 1927 to 1931, in Chicago, Illinois, he was employed by a firm on a full-time basis to manage certain real properties in receivership. The properties consisted of from 100 to 150 buildings, including apartments, a large apartment-hotel, flats, bungalows, and residences. One of these buildings, an apartment hotel, was quite similar to the Richman apartment building in the Richman Building. The buildings as a whole were of about the same class as the Richman Trust buildings. [R. 377-381-383, 465-466, 884-885.]

For a period of 13 years before January 1947, he was employed by the Garrett Company, wine merchants in New York. [R. 367-368.] During his last three or four years with this company he received an annual net compensation (before taxes) of \$40,000. [R. 891-892, 367-368.]

He came to California about January 1947, as Western Regional Sales Manager for Refrigeration Corporation of America at a salary of \$10,000 a year, plus a commission override based on volume. [R. 875.] From the time of his arrival in California in 1947, until he moved to Orange County in 1952, he resided in the City of Pasadena. [R. 367-368.]

He remained with Refrigeration Corporation of America for about two years, when the company dissolved. [R. 875.]

About 1949 Hallberg began having trouble with his back—for months he was in bed and in the hospital—and accordingly his employment record from then until the

December 1949, he and Mrs. Hallberg purchased a 16 apartment house in South Pasadena, which they held approximately 11 months, and in which they installed Mrs. Hallberg's mother as manager. [R. 369-370, 890.] Hallberg himself performed many of the managerial duties [R. 369-370] and even did hard physical work on the premises, including painting, carpeting, hanging doors, laying floor tile, and repairing the roof. [R. 463-464, 910-911.] About January 1951, Mr. and Mrs. Hallberg also purchased a four unit apartment building in Pasadena, which they still own. [R. 370, 882, 891.]

Mrs. Hallberg received the degree of Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Minnesota in 1932. [R. 516.] For a time she was one of the women investment counselors in New York. [R. 516.] She took a year's course in color consulting at the Tishchen School of Design in New York and was consultant for certain properties in that city. [R. 385.] She holds a real estate broker's license in California. [R. 269, 270.]

D. Receiver's Services.

The Receiver's active duties with regard to the management and operation of the former Richman Trust began about December 1, 1953, and continued until February 1, 1954. [R. 255.] The nature of the services performed by him during this period is too varied and extensive to relate in detail, but in general it consisted in handling the myriad problems which arise in connection with the operation of five large apartment houses, such as re-

of account (the Receiver set up a new and improved keeping system), and the purchase of supplies; as well as in conferring with representatives of government agencies, inspecting the buildings from time to time to determine whether their physical plants were in good working order, comparing the rentals with other apartment buildings in the neighborhood, and appearing in court at various hearings. [R. 77-84, 261-262, 281-284, 287-290, 295, 892-896, 912-913.]

February 26, 1954, the District Court made its order relieving the Receiver "of his active duties of management, control and possession of the assets known as the Richman Trust, as of five o'clock p. m., Sunday, February 28, 1954," and directed the Receiver to "give up control and possession to Lyda Tidwell, plaintiff, of all the assets of the said Richman Trust, excepting any in bank and under the control of the said Receiver, . . ." [R. 56.] On the same day the Receiver was informed of the sum and substance of this order by his attorney. [R. 417-419.]

In his statement of the case Richman asserts in substance that the Receiver violated the terms of this order in at least three particulars, to wit:

1. He failed to retain control of the petty cash fund of \$85 in the hands of the apartment house managers.

2. He failed to collect from the managers the rents which had been collected by them on February 26, 27, and 28, 1954.

3. On February 27, 1954, he made a monthly payment

A proper understanding of the facts will show that the Receiver did not violate the terms of the above mentioned order in any one of the particulars specified.

First, with respect to the minor amounts of petty cash in the hands of the managers, totalling \$785, these funds were used to pay small day-to-day expenses, such as telephone refunds, salaries of extra help, gratuities to persons moving cans or other "stuff" from the apartment buildings, etc. [R. 480-482, 419-420.] These funds were lost or dissipated but were simply left in the buildings and became the property of Mrs. Tidwell when she took over their control and possession as of 5:00 P.M. on Sunday, February 28, 1954. [R. 420-421.] The Receiver did not take possession of these funds for the good and sufficient reason that they were a part of the working properties of the buildings [R. 420-421] and were therefore necessary to their continued operation. In regard the Trial Court declared in substance in its memorandum to counsel, dated October 5, 1954, that the petty cash fund existed merely "as an operating incident of the apartment house so that the resident managers would have available small sums of money for the purposes that are common to the day-to-day business transacted by resident apartment house managers." [R. 182, 185-186, 188.]

Second, with respect to the rents collected by the managers on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the 26th, 27th and 28th of February 1954, they amounted to \$1,290 [R. 601.] Hallberg did not collect these monies from the managers for two cogent reasons: (1) the period in question being a week end, the banks were closed, and inasmuch as the Receiver's office had no safe there,

was prevented from collecting them by reason of the fact that Mr. Udall, Mrs. Tidwell's agent, made the rounds of the apartment houses on Sunday, February 22, 1954, told the managers that he was in charge, and collected the monies himself. [R. 932-933, 420, 429-430.] In connection it appeared that these monies represented payments made by tenants in advance on account of their rent due on the first of March [R. 182-183], wherefore the funds rightfully belonged to Mrs. Tidwell under the terms of the aforesaid order of February 26, 1954.

Third, with respect to the payment by Hallberg on February 27, 1954, of an installment on a trust deed not until two days later [R. 423], it should be observed that under the language of the Court's order of February 26, 1954, the Receiver's "active duties of management, control and possession of the assets known as the Richman Trust" continued until 5:00 of the afternoon of February 28. [R. 56.] Thus, at the time he made the payment on February 27, he had ample power to do so. Moreover, the Trial Court was of the opinion that it was not unwise of him to pay a debt of the receiver two days in advance of its due date. [R. 186, 868-869.]

It is significant to note that during his term as Receiver of the Trust Richman himself sometimes made payments on the same trust deed in advance of their due date. [R. 535-536.]

In conclusion, it should be noted that not one penny of any of the three items discussed above was lost or misappropriated. Thus, even if it be assumed for purposes of argument that the Receiver's duties were limited to the collection of the monies due on the trust deeds, it is clear that he acted properly in making the payments in advance.

As previously stated, the Receiver always employed a full-time bookkeeper during his term as Receiver. [R. 270.] For about two-thirds of that term the bookkeeper, Mr. Harrison, was the same bookkeeper who had kept the Trust books while Richman was managing the assets. [R. 270, 410-411, 533.] Hence, insofar as bookkeeping problems were concerned, the Receiver's duties were mainly supervisory.

Hallberg had had sufficient accounting training and experience to render him capable of exercising such supervision. In his college days at Northwestern University he took two years of accounting and did part-time accounting work while going to school. [R. 911-912.] He had two years public accounting in the field in Chicago [R. 737.] He had the "complete management" of the 50 to 50 buildings in receivership in Chicago in 1930-1931 [R. 377-378, 381-383, 884-886], which presumably must have included supervision of their books of account. He also did some of the bookkeeping for Morgan Construction Tooth Corporation in 1951 [R. 448-449, 878], and apparently he set up the books for Hall Industries [R. 879-881.] with whom he was associated from October 1948 to April 1951. [R. 879-881.]

Insofar as Richman may be attempting to discredit the Receiver and his counsel for not having filed an account within 60 days after the Receiver's appointment, as required by Rule 18(b), Local Rules Southern District, California (Richman's Op. Br. p. 33), the Trial Court completely absolved Hallberg and Whyte from any blame.

F. Refrigeration Breakdown.

hman's partially unsupported and much distorted
ment of the case, under this subdivision seeks to show
Hallberg was remiss in the performance of his duties
Receiver with respect to this refrigeration problem.
only necessary to exhibit the facts in their proper
ective in order to refute any such charge against
erg.

out the middle of January 1954, trouble developed
the refrigeration equipment at the Western Arms
ment building. [R. 284.] In accordance with in-
ions previously given her by the Receiver, the man-
called representatives of the California Refrigera-
Company who went to work on the matter promptly.
284.] A report of the trouble was made to the
ver on the evening of the same day, and he was
that the refrigeration repairmen were on the job.
85.] Before noon of the following day the Receiver
conversations with the representatives of two re-
ation companies and instructed one of these com-
s to finish the job of repair. [R. 286, 435-439.]
Receiver personally visited the apartment house two
after the breakdown and found the refrigeration
n working perfectly. [R. 435-436, 525.]

G. Air Pollution—Criminal Citation.

re, again, it is only necessary to state the facts
and accurately in order to demonstrate that the
ver and his attorney acted properly and prudently
ndling an air pollution problem resulting from a

About December 3, 1953, Richman turned over to the Receiver certain contracts which he had made with Air Pollution Control, Inc. for the installation of air pollution control equipment in the incinerators at the Oliver Cromwell and Canterbury apartment houses. [R. 387.] About December 10, the Receiver received an authorization from the County of Los Angeles for the installation of the equipment [R. 387-388], and not long afterward the Receiver received engineering drawings of the equipment to be installed by Air Pollution Control, Inc. [R. 388.]

On December 24, 1953, the Receiver asked his attorney to examine these contracts. [R. 940, 388.] The attorney did so and returned them to the Receiver about December 30, at the same time orally advising the Receiver that "the contracts were valid and binding, that they should be carried out." [R. 556-557, 388-389, 753, 941.]

About January 1, 1954, the Receiver instructed his bookkeeper, Harrison, to mail the engineering drawings to Air Pollution Control, Inc., which Harrison was to do. [R. 753, 405-406, 518-519.] Subsequently, on January 13, the Receiver received a notice from the Los Angeles County Air Pollution Control District charging that the Oliver Cromwell was violating Section 242 of the California Health and Safety Code by discharging excessive smoke from its incinerator. [R. 711, 388-389.] Shortly after receipt of this notice Harrison telephoned Mr. Manalis, the vice-president of Air Pollution Control, Inc., and instructed his company to proceed with the installation at the Oliver Cromwell. [R. 646, 519-520.] With regard to the notice from the Air Pollution Control District, Manalis told Harrison that he "would take

January 22, 1954, Hallberg found the drawings for
r pollution control equipment at his office at the
Cromwell [R. 642], Harrison having failed to
out the instructions given him about the first of
onth to forward them to Air Pollution Control, Inc.
53, 405-406, 518-519]. Hallberg immediately wrote
r to Air Pollution Control, Inc. enclosing the draw-
[R. 646-647.]

ner on January 27 or January 29, 1954 (the record
clear), a criminal complaint was issued by the
y of Los Angeles naming Richman and one of the
ment house managers as defendants. [R. 406-407.]
y event the record is clear that Whyte had no knowl-
that Richman had been named as a defendant in the
aint until January 29, when he was so advised by
son. [R. 558, 639-641, 940.] Whyte immediately
to get in touch with Richman and his counsel but
unable to locate either of them, whereupon he left
at Richman's office between 4:00 and 5:00
. on January 29, concerning the pendency of the
and the fact that a hearing therein had been set
e morning of February 1. [R. 407.] Mr. Joseph
right, representing ~~Richman, and Whyte repre-~~
~~g the~~ Whyte, representing the Rich-
and apartment house manager, appeared at the hear-
nd upon their joint request the matter was continued.
60-961.] Thereafter, at a conference on February 9
he representative of the Los Angeles City Attorney's
in charge of the case, Hallberg, Whyte and Rich-
counsel persuaded him to dismiss the suit. [R. 965-
At no time was anyone fined or was any financial

A final key fact, which is vital to any fair statement of the facts under this heading and which does not appear in Richman's brief, is the admission by Mr. Manal Air Pollution Control, Inc. that for a period commencing from ten days to two weeks before January 15, 1954 continuing until three or four weeks after January 15, 1954, a particular type of metal needed for the installation of the air pollution control equipment at the Oliver C. well and the Canterbury was not available to his company wherefore the company was unable to make the installation during this period in the absence of such metal. [704-707, 709, 547-549.] Hence, even if it be assumed that Hallberg and/or Whyte failed to act as reasonably prudent men in dealing with the matter under consideration (an assumption which, as we have seen, is not supported by the facts), any failure on their part to conform to standards of due care was not the proximate cause of the issuance of the criminal complaint for the reason that even if they had they acted with all possible skill and dispatch, the installation still could not have been completed before the complaint was issued because Air Pollution Control, Inc. did not have the necessary material to make the installation.

H. Receiver's Fees.

At the beginning of this subdivision of his statement of the case Richman devotes several pages of his brief to an effort to make capital of the fact that the Receiver did not specify in his petition for fees the amount of the fee he was asking for, as required by Rule 18(c), Rules Southern District, California. (Richman's O

petitions for fees that "if they wanted to leave the court to determine a reasonable amount that court would not insist upon compliance with the that an amount shall be prayed for. But they could it as reasonable or they would state a specified t." [R. 254.] The District Court further asserted I felt at the time . . . that asking for rea- e fees and leaving it to the court to determine what should be upon hearing the evidence was the better e." [R. 625.]

re is abundant evidence in the record to sustain the Court's finding that the reasonable value of the er's services is the sum of \$6,000. [R. 194.] In onnection the court heard the testimony of Mr. on Mann, a licensed real estate broker and real appraiser, who for 21 years was connected with Rowan & Co. in Los Angeles, the second largest tate management firm in the West. [R. 298-299.] first being qualified as an expert witness with t to the management of real estate, including apart- buildings, and the compensation paid for such man- nt in the Los Angeles area [R. 298-299, 308-310], testified that based on the size of the receivership (it was valued at approximately \$1,200,000) [R. the duties performed by the Receiver, his education ast employment, the size of his bond (\$75,000) -26], and the amount of gross receipts during the of the receivership (\$94,153.59) [R. 105], he was opinion that the reasonable value of the Receiver's s was 5% of gross income, or \$4,707.67. [R.

In explaining why it fixed the Receiver's fee at \$ the Trial Court stated:

"The Receiver has not prayed for a specific in compensation for his services but has set forth in detail what his services consisted of and prayed for reasonable fees. The Court bears in mind that the defendant has testified that ten per cent of the income was a reasonable management fee when the defendant rendered the management service. In procuring the contract with Plaintiff for that fee, there was an over-reaching and undue influence. That fee was excessive. The Court bears in mind, also, that there is evidence in the record that various percentages including five per cent and six per cent would have been a reasonable management fee. The Receiver in this instance acted as a property manager with the obligations of full trustee and of an officer of the trust. Mr. Richman, with whom he had to deal, is a person given to hostile and aggressive attitudes. It is evident that he exercised these in his relations with the Receiver. The Receiver was obliged to go through the problem of setting up his own management plan. [234] He was only allowed to execute the plan for a brief period before the receiver's session was abruptly terminated. He was placed in session hurriedly and he was terminated abruptly. It then became necessary for him to file an accounting, and the accounting procedure was exhausted to its ultimate in searching into the conduct of the Receiver during and even before his stewardship. He spent several days in Court defending the administration of his trust and undergoing a most cruel and insulting scrutiny of his every act and omission in his administration. The Receiver's fee is

m and the labors of making up his accounting and explaining and defending it in Court. The Court finds it to be a true and correct account." [R. 186-188.]

to the manner in which the Receiver was treated by Richman and his counsel, the Court remarked:

"The Court: . . .

"He was brought before the court almost as if we were accused of a crime here and was treated by some of the parties to the suit, or by one of the parties to the suit and one of the attorneys to the action with less respect than I have seen embezzlers treated when I was handling the criminal calendar of the court." [R. 857-859.]

On pages 41-42 of his opening brief Richman attempts to compare the total amount of expenses incident to the administration of the receivership, including fees allowed the Receiver and his attorney, with the amount which would have been paid to him under his contract with the Trust if he had been managing the assets during the period of receivership. He concludes that the receivership expenses were about \$400 more than they would have been if he had remained in control. Apparently the purpose of this comparison is to show, if he can, that the fees of the Receiver and his attorney are too high.

Completely apart from the fact that several of the figures which he bases his calculations are not supported by the record,⁶ and the further fact that he fails to mention certain items which would have increased the Trust

of the receivership [R. 605-606], his comparison is leading and of little value. This is true because Receiver's duties were much more burdensome than would have been had he, like Richman, been in control of the assets for an extended period and thus had had to put the Trust affairs on a normal well-oiled day-to-day basis. Here, however, the Receiver was confronted with the task of taking possession of unknown properties, familiarizing himself with them, installing his system of management and setting up his books, and then, only a few months later, being compelled to close the books and to render possession of the assets.

I. Objections to Receiver's Report.

We have already discussed all of the items mentioned in this subdivision of Richman's statement of the Trust under previous headings, except (1) the failure to pay Richman's claim in the sum of \$3,104.22, and (2) the alleged failure by the Receiver to account for a \$1,000 deposit on Workmen's Compensation and an alleged refund thereon of \$158. (Richman's Op. Br. p. 44)

With respect to (1) above, although Richman claimed that he was entitled to a management fee of \$3,104.33 for his services to the Trust in November, 1953, Hallberg never received a bill or other communication from him stating that this amount, or any other amount, was due him. [R. 426-427.] Actually it would have been most unwise for the Receiver to have paid this claim inasmuch as the District Court later held that the amount claimed was based on a charge of 10% of the income of the Trust as fixed by a contract under

ment on a *quantum meruit* basis only. [R. 182-
The Court ultimately fixed Richman's management
such service at \$1,862.60, or 6% of the gross
of the Trust in November, 1953. [R. 194-195.]
respect to (2) above, the Receiver did account
the \$400.00 deposit on Workmen's Compensation.
7.]⁷ As for the Receiver's alleged failure to ac-
for a refund on this deposit, he could not have
because no refund was shown to have been re-
by him during his term as Receiver. [R. 661-662;
9.]⁸

J. Attorney's Fees.

ingly enough, this subdivision of Richman's state-
of the case does not challenge as unreasonable the
\$1,800.00 actually allowed the Receiver's attorney
stead attacks the amount prayed for in the attorney's
for fees, namely, \$3,000.00 for ordinary services
unspecified amount for extraordinary services, as
excessive. (Richman's Op. Br. pp. 44-46.) That
of \$1,800.00 which was in fact allowed is an ex-
ly modest fee is shown by the following facts:

attorney's original petition for fees, filed March 18,
ought an allowance of fees for services performed
on behalf of the Receiver from about December
3, to and including March 17, 1954. [R. 58, 74.]
services rendered during this period consisted, among

statement at page 44 of Richman's opening brief that the

others, in advising the Receiver or his agents, on an average of at least three days a week during the three month's period of the receivership, with respect to numerous problems connected with the administration of the receivership; preparing petitions, such as a petition for authority to pay Christmas bonuses and a petition for authority to renovate individual apartments; court appearances in obtaining approval of such petitions; frequent telephone calls from and to the attorneys for Richman and Tidwell regarding the progress of the receivership and problems incident therein; conferences and a court appearance in connection with the dismissal of the criminal complaint hereinbefore discussed under subdivision (b); conferences regarding termination of the receivership and preparation of the Receiver's first and final report and petition for fees. [R. 60-72, 541-542, 951-952.] Whyte had practiced law in Los Angeles for more than 12 years prior to his appointment as attorney for the Receiver. [R. 967-968.]

On May 12, 1954, Whyte filed his supplemental petition for fees for the period commencing March 18, 1954, to and including May 10, 1954. [R. 164-170.] The services included, among others, representing the Receiver upon the taking of his deposition and conferring with Richman and his wife and with other potential witnesses in preparing his defense to Richman's attack upon his report and petition for fees. [R. 166-169.]

As previously noted, the hearing on the Receiver's report and petition for fees began on May 12, 1954, and lasted for four and one-half court days, excluding the recesses. [R. 246, 265, 340-341, 416-417, 420-421.]

51
R. 614-629] when the subject of Whyte's fees was consideration, the hearing was devoted exclusively to defending the Receiver against the attack on his report and petition for fees and to laying a foundation for determining the reasonable value of his services. Whyte was the Receiver's attorney throughout the hearing.

Bert F. Laugharn, Esq., a Los Angeles attorney specializing in bankruptcy and liquidation matters, was called as an expert witness with regard to receiverships. [R. 559-561.] Upon the basis of the allegations in Whyte's original and supplemental petition for fees, and in view of the size and extent of the receivership estate, and the problems encountered during receivership, Laugharn expressed the opinion that compensation of \$1,000.00 per month for each of the months of the receivership would not be excessive. [R. 561-565, 568.]

In reference to the compensation due Whyte for defending the Receiver in court against Richman's attack on the Receiver's report and petition for fees,^{8a} Paul Fusco, one of the senior partners in the Los Angeles law firm Melveny & Myers, was qualified as an expert witness [R. 614-616] and testified that based upon the size of the receivership estate, the objections made by Richman to the Receiver's report and petition for fees, and the time consumed by Whyte in defending such report and petition for fees against Richman's attack thereon, he was of the opinion that the reasonable value of Whyte's services in conducting the defense was between \$1,000.00 and \$2,000.00. [R. 616-619.]

Whyte is criticized at pages 44-45 of Richman's ing brief for having allegedly given improper advice to the Receiver, three asserted instances of such all improper advice being specified, to wit:

(1) He and the Receiver took over the Trust's account and requested managers to turn over mon them, and in fact collected money from one of the agers, before the Receiver was appointed.

(2) Whyte failed to advise the Receiver that performance of the contracts with Air Pollution Co Inc. might result in criminal prosecution.

(3) He allegedly erroneously assumed that Ri had no right to contact the Receiver's bookkeeper Harrison, concerning the Trust property or the a the Receiver.

These points will be answered briefly and in their order.

As to (1), the Receiver was appointed by a court made and filed on November 30, 1953. [R. 2 The steps allegedly taken by the Receiver and his at were taken on December 1, 1953, after the Rec appointment. [R. 552, 947-948.] The only action at the bank was to transfer the former Richman account to the Receiver's name. [R. 552.] This v urgent matter. [R. 554-555.]

It is true that the Receiver did not file his bond and his oath of office until December 2. [R. 25-26.] nically, therefore, the Receiver and his attorney h authority to take any of the steps which they did t December 1. Richman does not contend, however,

such petty fault finding does anything more than
the time of this Court.

o (2), why should Whyte have advised the Re-
that non-performance of the contracts with Air
on Control, Inc. might result in criminal prosecu-
About December 30, 1953, he told the Receiver
the contracts were binding and instructed him to
them out, "to go ahead." [R. 388, 556-557, 753.]
l no reason to believe that his instructions would
or were not being, obeyed. He was not informed
ime that performance of the contracts for installa-
the pollution control facilities was being held up
the month of January, 1954. [R. 943.] Neither
advised that the Receiver had received the notice
by the Air Pollution Control District on January
54. [R. 543-544.] The first time he knew or
bly could have suspected that anything was wrong
or about January 27, when he learned from Har-
that a criminal complaint either was or was about to
ed. [R. 557-558.]

lly, as to (3), what difference does it make whether
assumed, either rightly or wrongly, that Richman
s right to contact Harrison, the Receiver's book-
? It is not contended that Whyte ever took any
in reliance upon his assumption or that Richman
revented from obtaining the information he de-

ally Whyte had every reason to assume as he did. The
order appointing the Receiver expressly forbade Richman

The Issues Presented.

The principal issue presented on this appeal with
ence to the Receiver and his attorney is as follows

Did the District Court abuse its discretion in awarding
a fee of \$6,000.00 to the Receiver and a fee of \$1,800.00
to his attorney?

There are two other minor issues, to wit:

(1) Did the District Court err in ordering the Receiver
to reimburse himself from the moneys in his possession to the
extent of \$89.20, paid out by him for copies of his deposition
and that of his attorney, said depositions having been taken by Richman
used at the hearing on the Receiver's report and petition for fees
and the petition of his attorney for fees?

(2) Did the District Court err in refusing to
qualify itself to settle the Receiver's account and to
award fees to the Receiver and his attorney?

Summary of Argument.

1. The District Court did not abuse its discretion in
awarding a fee of \$6,000.00 to the Receiver and a fee of
\$1,800.00 to his attorney.

2. The District Court did not err in ordering the Receiver
to reimburse himself from the moneys in his possession to the
extent of \$89.20, paid out by him for copies of his deposition
and that of his attorney.

3. The District Court did not err in refusing to
qualify itself to settle the Receiver's account and to
award fees to the Receiver and his attorney.

ARGUMENT.

I.

District Court Did Not Abuse Its Discretion in Awarding a Fee of \$6,000.00 to the Receiver and Fee of ~~\$18,000.00~~^{18,000.00} to His Attorney.

It is axiomatic that the amount of compensation paid to a receiver and his counsel is a matter within the sound discretion of the trial court and will not be disturbed upon appeal in the absence of a clear showing that the trial court has abused its discretion. (*In re Cash-orth, Grow-Sir* (2d Cir., 1913), 210 Fed. 24, 26; *Gold & Exploration Corporation, et al. v. Webster* (2d Cir., 1934), 69 F. 2d 416, 418; *Venza v. Venza* (1934), 101 Cal. App. 2d 678, 680.) This principle is well established in the case of *Venza v. Venza* (*supra*), to wit:

"The rule is well established that the compensation to be allowed receivers and their attorneys is primarily within the sound discretion of the trial court. This is necessarily so, for, as the court stated in *Kan v. Sang*, 90 Cal. App. 2d 538 [203 P. 2d 86], the trial court is 'in a better position to know the necessity for the services performed by the receiver and his attorney and to assess their reasonable value' (p. 541) than is a reviewing court. Thus, it follows that in the absence of a clear showing of an abuse of discretion by the trial court this court would not be justified in interfering therewith. (*Adams v. Woods*, 101 Cal. 306, 322.) We conclude that the record does not disclose such a showing by defendants." (P. 30.)

amount allowed. (*Estate of McLaughlin* (1954), 42d 462, 465-466 (trustees' fees); *Estate of* (1950), 97 Cal. App. 2d 651, 655 (trustee's fees *Dehner's Estate* (1941), 230 Iowa 490, 298 N. W. 657 (attorney's fees).) This rule is well expressed in *Estate of McLaughlin* (*supra*), a recent decision of the Supreme Court of California, stated in the following language:

“Pursuant to section 1122 of the Probate Code, the trustees must be allowed ‘such compensation for services as the court may deem just and reasonable.’ The allowance rests in the sound discretion of the trial court, whose ruling will not be disturbed on appeal in the absence of a manifest showing of error. (*Estate of McLellan*, 8 Cal. 2d 49, 55 [63 P. 2d 1120]; *Estate of Mills*, 119 Cal. App. 2d 8, 9 [122 P. 2d 1028]; *Estate of Willardson*, 101 Cal. App. 2d 777, 780 [226 P. 2d 369].) The trustee must present to the trial court satisfactory evidence of the accuracy and propriety of the items in his account (*Johnson v. Johnson*, 174 Cal. 521, 527 [163 P. 893]; *Estate of McCabe*, 98 Cal. App. 2d 503, 505 [220 P. 2d 614]); but the sole question before an appellate court when the fee allowed him is attacked as excessive is whether there is substantial evidence to support the trial court’s finding. (*Estate of Griffith*, 97 Cal. App. 2d 651, 655 [218 P. 2d 149].) A finding that such a fee is a reasonable one states the ultimate issue in issue and is formally sufficient. (*Estate of*

*“ ‘On the settlement of each such account the court shall allow the trustee his proper expenses and such compensation for services as the court may deem just and reasonable. Where the

Cal. 2d 512, 514 [116 P. 2d 438]; *cf.*, *Estate of Willardson*, *supra*, 101 Cal. App. 2d at 780; *Estate Scherer*, 58 Cal. App. 2d 133, 138-139 [136 P. 103].)" (Pp. 465-466.)

order of November 19, 1954, from which Rich-appeal herein is taken, the District Court made the following findings with reference to the reasonableness of the fees allowed the Receiver and his attorney:

"... the reasonable value of the services of Roy E. Hallberg as receiver is the sum of \$6,000.00, which the Court finds to be the reasonable value of said services, and his fees are hereby fixed at the sum of \$6,000.00; the reasonable value of the services of John Whyte, as attorney for the receiver in this matter, is the sum of \$1,800.00, and his fees are hereby fixed at the sum of \$1,800.00, which the Court finds to be the reasonable value thereof." [R. 194.]

There is ample evidence to support the trial court's finding that the reasonable value of the Receiver's services was \$6,000.00. Gross receipts collected by the Receiver during the three months period of the receivership amounted to \$94,153.59. [R. 105.] There was evidence on record that various percentages, including 5% and 6% of gross income, would be a reasonable management fee. [R. 187, 374, 316.] Although 6% of \$94,153.59 would be \$5,649.21, and 5% of \$94,153.59 would be \$4,707.67, there were other factors present which justified the Court in raising the fee to \$6,000.00, which amounts to roughly 6.3% of gross income.

At the first place, the receivership lasted only the

system of management and bookkeeping before the receivership was terminated and he was forced to surrender possession of the assets and account for his stewardship. Naturally, this state of affairs placed a far greater burden upon him than would have resulted had he been given more time in which to put his house in order. [R. 186.]

In the second place, the Receiver was compelled to spend four and one-half days in court defending his administration of the receivership against a violent attack thereon by Richman, an attack which the District Court found to be completely unjustified. The Receiver was obliged to devote considerable time out of court preparing his defense to the attack on his administration and to the taking of his deposition by Richman. [R. 169.]

In the third place, in the words of the trial court, the Receiver was treated by Richman and his counsel with less respect than I have seen embezzlers treated who were handling the criminal calendar of the court" [R. 859], and was subjected to "a most critical and intense scrutiny of his every act and omission in his administration." [R. 187.] The Receiver is certainly entitled to some additional compensation for being forced to submit to such indignity and abuse.

There is likewise ample evidence to support the court's finding that the reasonable value of the attorney's services is at least \$1,800.00. Hubert Laugharn, a well-known Los Angeles attorney with wide experience in the field of receivers and receiverships [R. 559-561], testified that compensation of \$1,000.00 a month to the Receiver

in his opinion the reasonable value of the attorney's services in defending the Receiver against the Receiver's attack on his report and petition for fees alone worth from \$1,000.00 to \$1,200.00. [R. 616-619.] In connection it has been held that a trial court has the authority to compensate a receiver's attorney for services rendered by him in defending his client against baseless claims of having failed in the proper performance of his duties as receiver. (*Missouri & K. I. Ry. Co. v. Edson* (2d Cir., 1915), 224 Fed. 79).

Even if the District Court had failed to make any finding with respect to the reasonableness of the amounts allowed as fees to the Receiver and his attorney, it is obvious that it was in a better position to assess the reasonable value of their services than is this Court, and unless the Court can say that the compensation allowed is not warranted by the evidence, it should affirm the award. (*Y. Tsang* (1949), 90 Cal. App. 2d 538, 541.)

My comments are in order respecting the cases cited by the Plaintiff Richman at pages 59-62 of his opening brief. I have no quarrel with the statement of the considerations which should govern a court of equity in fixing the compensation of receivers, as they are set out on page 59 of Richman's opening brief in a quotation from the case *Eames v. H. B. Claffin Co.* (2d Cir., 1916), 231 Fed. 93. Richman's brief, however, omits a portion of the language quoted from this case, which reads as fol-

"* * * The amount of a receiver's compensation

In *Cake v. Mohun* (1896), 164 U. S. 311, 41 L. 447, cited at pages 60-61 of Richman's opening brief in the appellate court, while recognizing that it would have been more proper to consider the receiver's compensation at a considerably less amount had the matter been presented to it originally, refused to tamper with the amount fixed by the trial court upon the ground that "Great consideration will be paid to the conflicting views of the auditor or master and the [lower] courts respecting a mere matter of amount." (P. 311.)

As for the case of *Walton N. Moore Dry Goods Co. v. Lieurance* (9th Cir.), 38 F. 2d 186, cited at page 61 of Richman's opening brief for the proposition that the receiver's prior earnings are relevant in determining his fees, we have no quarrel with this proposition either. We do desire, however, again to call attention to the fact that for three or four years prior to January, 1947, the receiver received a net salary, before taxes, of \$40,000 a year [R. 891-892, 367-368], and that from October, 1948, to April, 1951, he received a salary of \$20,000 per year from another employer. [R. 879-881.]

II.

The District Court Did Not Err in Ordering the Receiver to Reimburse Himself From the Money in His Possession to the Extent of \$89.20, and to Pay Out of Him for Copies of His Depositions and That of His Attorney.

The depositions of the Receiver and his attorney taken by Richman for use upon the hearing on the receiver's report and petition for fees and his counsel's petition for fees. [R. 238.] They were introduced

States or in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure costs shall be allowed as of course to the prevailing party unless the court otherwise directs, . . .” The Receiver and his attorney were prevailing parties and the Receiver was a losing party in that the District Court in its Report and the Receiver’s report “to be full and correct” [R. 109] and awarding fees to the Receiver and his counsel. It is well settled that the cost to the prevailing party of obtaining a copy of his deposition taken by the losing party is taxable against the losing party. (*Schmitt v. Central-Diamond Fibre Co.* (N. D., Ill., 1940), 140 F.2d 109.)

III.

District Court Did Not Err in Refusing to Disqualify Itself to Settle the Receiver’s Account and to Award Fees to the Receiver and His Attorney.

Argument on this point has already been sufficiently covered under subdivision B of our statement of the facts appearing at pages 11 to 12 hereof.

It is respectfully urged that the order appealed from should be affirmed.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN WHYTE,

*Attorney for Appellee Roy E. Hallberg, as
Receiver.*

JOHN WHYTE,

In Propria Persona.

